

Boy Scouts of America

Citizenship in the Community

Scout Information

Welcome to the Learning Center, where you can learn about the judicial branch of government.

This packet includes discussion questions that will help you fulfill merit badge requirements and a map that shows where in the Learning Center you'll find some of the answers. We've also included extra sources of information if you're interested in learning more.

Please enjoy the Learning Center, including the computers and push-button questions. (Remember, all the questions read from left to right.) Have fun and thank you for visiting!



Citizenship in the Community

Room 1

3A) Chart the organization of your local or state government. show the top offices and tell which are elected or appointed.

Three Branches of Government

1. What are the three branches of government and what do they do?

2. Who leads each branch of government?

3. Explain the reasoning behind checks and balances?

4. Do you think three branches of government are necessary? If so, what is the importance of having three as opposed to one? If not, how would you change the system?

Further information

- <http://courts.mi.gov/lc-gallery/3-branches-govt.htm>
- Computers—*Court Overview: Judicial, Legislative, Executive and the Michigan Court System*
- See also **Michigan Court System** (Room 3)

Which Branch Is It?

Directions: Place a check in the column to the right of the correct Branch of Government for each of the following:

	Executive	Legislative	Judicial
1. County sheriff			
2. Department of Mental Health			
3. Department of Treasury			
4. Friend of the Court			
5. County jail			
6. City council person			
7. County Prosecuting Attorney			
8. State Senator			
9. Attorney General			
10. State Court Administrative Office			
11. City attorney			

Answers: 1=E; 2=E; 3=E; 4=J; 5=E; 6=E; 7=E; 8=L; 9=E; 10=J; 11=E



Executive Branch



Legislative Branch



Judicial Branch

Room 4

10) List five ways you can demonstrate good citizenship in your community, religious institution, school, or scouting unit.

The Right to Vote



1. When was the first U.S. amendment passed that gave all men the right to vote and which amendment was it?

2. Which amendment gave women the right to vote?

3. Why is voting so important?



Further information

- Computers—Court Overview: People
- See also **Traffic Citations** and learn how to observe traffic laws.

Room 2

3B) Name the political parties in your community government and list four persons active in the politics of your community and what positions they hold.

Book of Justices and the History of Michigan's Judicial System

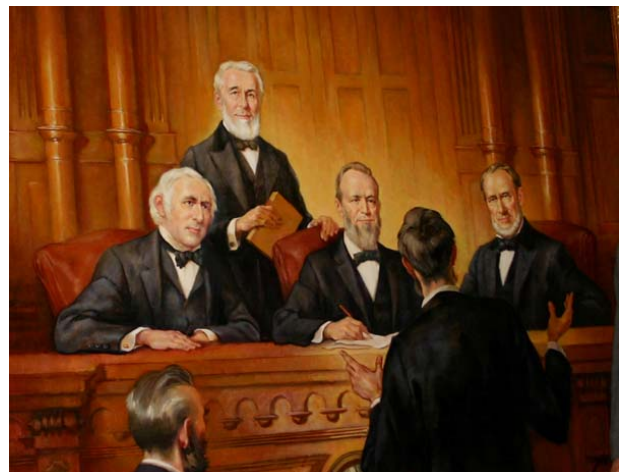
1. Who are the current Justices of the Supreme Court?

2. How long does each Justice serve and how are they chosen?

3. What are the requirements to become a Justice?

Further information

- <http://courts.mi.gov/supremecourt/AboutCourt/biography.htm>
- <http://courtofappeals.mijud.net>
- <http://courts.mi.gov/trialcourts/trial.htm>
- Computers—Court Overview: Legal Careers/Judges



Room 2

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Jury Duty



1. How many jurors serve on a civil trial? A misdemeanor trial? A criminal trial? And how many must agree to reach a verdict?

2. What are the requirements to serve on a jury?

3. What is the importance of having a jury?

4. Should jury duty be mandatory? Why or why not?

Room 4

10) List five ways you can demonstrate good citizenship in your community, religious institution, school, or scouting unit.

**Computer Interactive:
Consequences of
Drinking & Driving**



1. What are some tests officers administer to see if a driver has been drinking?

2. What is the legal limit of alcohol allowed in a driver under 21 years old? Over 21?

3. What are the possible consequences for a drunk driver?

4. How can drinking and driving affect other people besides the driver?

5. What can be done to reduce drunk driving?

Room 4

10) List five ways you can demonstrate good citizenship in your community, religious institution, school, or scouting unit.

**Computer Interactive:
Environmental Law**

1. Why should people protect the environment?

2. What are some things you can do at home to protect the environment?

Further information:

- See also the exhibit about drug courts.

